

To: Vann, Bradley[Vann.Bradley@epa.gov]
Cc: Washburn, Ben[washburn.ben@epa.gov]; Field, Jeff[Field.Jeff@epa.gov]; Peterson, Mary[Peterson.Mary@epa.gov]; Juett, Lynn[Juett.Lynn@epa.gov]; Stoy, Alyse[Stoy.Alyse@epa.gov]
From: Carey, Curtis
Sent: Fri 12/4/2015 4:52:51 PM
Subject: RE: FW: Journalist interested in smoldering fire research

In terms of guidance, our position is that Bridgeton landfill is managed by MDNR and we'll refer those questions to them. Regarding WLL our prep session Monday will be used to plan out what we'll discuss and won't discuss.

From: Vann, Bradley
Sent: Friday, December 04, 2015 10:50 AM
To: Carey, Curtis <Carey.Curtis@epa.gov>
Cc: Washburn, Ben <washburn.ben@epa.gov>; Field, Jeff <Field.Jeff@epa.gov>; Peterson, Mary <Peterson.Mary@epa.gov>; Juett, Lynn <Juett.Lynn@epa.gov>; Stoy, Alyse <Stoy.Alyse@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: FW: Journalist interested in smoldering fire research

Curtis, let's make sure we discuss this with the team, as we are in the middle of a number of pending legal issues with parties in response to the IB decision and working with MDNR on their actions in Bridgeton as well (on call with MDNR and team now). Am copying and we can discuss how best to respond. Thanks,

Bradley Vann - Remedial Project Manager

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Superfund Division

Missouri/Kansas Remedial Branch

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Lenexa, KS 66219

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From: Carey, Curtis
Sent: Friday, December 04, 2015 10:45 AM
To: Vann, Bradley <Vann.Bradley@epa.gov>
Cc: Washburn, Ben <washburn.ben@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: FW: Journalist interested in smoldering fire research

Hi Brad,

I left you a VM. This is related to the interview with ORD on SSEs. You and I would join the call to provide R7 support on issues relating to WLL. Hope you and I can talk before the tagup with HQ on Monday (Time TBD).

Thanks,

Curtis

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Friday, December 04, 2015 10:38 AM
To: Hubbard, Carolyn <Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov>; Carey, Curtis <Carey.Curtis@epa.gov>; Perry, Dale <Perry.Dale@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: FW: Journalist interested in smoldering fire research

Thanks .. we are looking to do the interview on weds afternoon – around 3 p.m. – so it would be great if we can connect on Monday or Tuesday for a pre-call

From: Hubbard, Carolyn
Sent: Friday, December 04, 2015 11:34 AM
To: Carey, Curtis <Carey.Curtis@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Perry, Dale <Perry.Dale@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: FW: Journalist interested in smoldering fire research

Yes it would be Thabet for the more general research. I'm asking if he's available early next week for a chat.

Carolyn Hubbard

ORD Communications

202-564-2189

202-379-6744

From: Carey, Curtis
Sent: Friday, December 04, 2015 11:16 AM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Hubbard, Carolyn <Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov>; Perry, Dale <Perry.Dale@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: FW: Journalist interested in smoldering fire research

Brad Vann, RPM.

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Friday, December 04, 2015 9:57 AM
To: Carey, Curtis <Carey.Curtis@epa.gov>; Hubbard, Carolyn <Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov>; Perry, Dale <Perry.Dale@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: FW: Journalist interested in smoldering fire research

Would like to do a call with the reporter early next week – Curtis and Carolyn, it would be good to get your folks on a call to discuss how we would approach. Presume the ORD person is Thabet Tolaymat – Curtis, who is your person? Thanks ng

From: Carey, Curtis
Sent: Wednesday, December 02, 2015 1:27 PM
To: Hubbard, Carolyn <Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Perry, Dale <Perry.Dale@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: FW: Journalist interested in smoldering fire research

Nancy,

What are you thinking about in terms of timing for the interview?

From: Hubbard, Carolyn

Sent: Wednesday, December 02, 2015 12:03 PM

To: Carey, Curtis <Carey.Curtis@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Perry, Dale <Perry.Dale@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: FW: Journalist interested in smoldering fire research

These are the other projects going on in ORD on this topic- apparently this covers landfills across the US and Europe.

Let me know if you want to have the reporter speak to the lead on these. I don't have a strong feeling either way, but am happy to coordinate if that is what you want to offer.

Subsurface Exothermic Reactions in MSW Landfills

- Product Contact: Thabet Tolaymat (tolaymat.thabet@epa.gov)
- Product's Delivery Date: Q4 FY16
- Product Description: This report investigates the occurrence of sustained subsurface heating (SSH) events at MSW landfills and summarizes the state of the science with regard to their detection, causes, effects, control, and long-term mitigation. While the number of SSH events is difficult to quantify, based on 2007-2011 data, it is estimated that about 185 SSH events may occur annually in the U.S., representing approximately 30% of all reported landfill "fires."

Modelling Heat Generation and Migration Profiles in Landfills

- Product Contact: Thabet Tolaymat (tolaymat.thabet@epa.gov)
- Product's Delivery Date: Q4 FY16

- Product Description: The report develop herein will aim at numerically modelling heat generation in landfills to identify factors that impact temperature distribution in landfills and the magnitude of the impact of these factors. Elevated temperatures and surface or sub-surface fires can occur at municipal solid waste (MSW) landfills from external factors (e.g., smoldering loads delivered to the site) or from chemical or biological processes that occur after disposal. The resultant conditions when temperatures go beyond those which normally occur during anaerobic decomposition of organic wastes can pose a threat to worker health and safety (and the surrounding community) and damage critical protective infrastructure such as liner systems, stormwater management systems, and gas collection systems.

Carolyn Hubbard

ORD Communications

202-564-2189

202-379-6744

From: Carey, Curtis

Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2015 4:46 PM

To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Hubbard, Carolyn <Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov>; Perry, Dale <Perry.Dale@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: FW: Journalist interested in smoldering fire research

That's doable. I can orchestrate on my end. We would either have the Superfund director or RPM for the site. One thing to keep in mind is that the Bridgeton Landfill SSE is overseen by the Missouri DNR so any questions about how it's being managed would go to them.

From: Grantham, Nancy

Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2015 12:43 PM

To: Carey, Curtis <Carey.Curtis@epa.gov>; Hubbard, Carolyn <Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov>; Perry, Dale <Perry.Dale@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: FW: Journalist interested in smoldering fire research

Sounds good – if you could let us know who it might be – my sense is that we would have one call with the reporter. thanks ng

From: Carey, Curtis
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2015 1:41 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Hubbard, Carolyn <Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov>; Perry, Dale <Perry.Dale@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: FW: Journalist interested in smoldering fire research

Ref. Bridgeton questions, let's have someone from R7 speak to those issues. We're in the midst of legal negotiations with the PRPs on a few orders, to include the barrier decision to separate the rad from the smoldering event. Let me know if you concur or wish to talk more. I'm on a hard deadline today on a couple of things but can talk after 3:00.

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2015 11:21 AM
To: Hubbard, Carolyn <Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov>; Carey, Curtis <Carey.Curtis@epa.gov>; Perry, Dale <Perry.Dale@epa.gov>
Cc: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: FW: Journalist interested in smoldering fire research

Curtis –

Carolyn, Dale and I just spoke about this request – and Carolyn is looking into what scientists they have in ORD who could speak generally to the research on SSEs –

Also, we are wondering whether you would be comfortable with John McKernan speaking to specific Bridgeton issues –

We are sensitive to the timing relative to the 12/15 scheduled press announcement.

Please let us know your thoughts .

Thanks ng

From: Maggie Koerth-Baker [<mailto:maggie.koerth@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2015 10:05 AM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: FW: Journalist interested in smoldering fire research

I'm currently working with my editor to pin down the details of this story. I'm not on a very tight time frame. I just need to find the people that I can talk to so I can tell my editor and get the story moving forward. I'm looking for researchers who are studying subsurface smoldering events (and, ideally, involved in planning for how to deal with the specific one at Bridgeton). I want to be able to have someone who can put a face to this research and tell me about what they are learning.

Is that something you can help with?

M

On Tue, Nov 24, 2015 at 5:52 AM, Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Maggie,

I got your inquiry below from my colleague in Kansas City.

Wondering what your deadline/timeframe is?

Thanks

Nancy Grantham

From: Maggie Koerth-Baker [<mailto:maggie.koerth@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2015 3:10 PM
To: Whitley, Christopher <Whitley.Christopher@epa.gov>
Subject: Journalist interested in smoldering fire research

Mr. Whitley,

My name is Maggie Koerth-Baker. I'm a science journalist working on a story for Wired about the science of smoldering underground fires. I know this is something that scientists know much less about compared to above-ground fires and I'm trying to find contacts who can talk about what's going on in the efforts to learn more about how these fires work and how best to stop them. I'm contacting you because of the smoldering underground fire at the Bridgeton Landfill. I understand that EPA Region 7 is going to be doing a great deal of careful research over the next year or so, as you come up with a plan for deal with that situation. I'd like to get in contact with the folks who will be doing that research. I'm not especially interested in the controversy surrounding the fire. I'd really just like to be able to follow along as a team of researchers tries to figure out how to deal with one of these complex fires. Who would you recommend that I speak to about that? Please let me know. You can reach me at this email or by phone at [612-388-4133](tel:612-388-4133).

Best,

M

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Maggie Koerth-Baker

Journalist - Author

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